# Given

by Kizu Natsuki

Chapter 09

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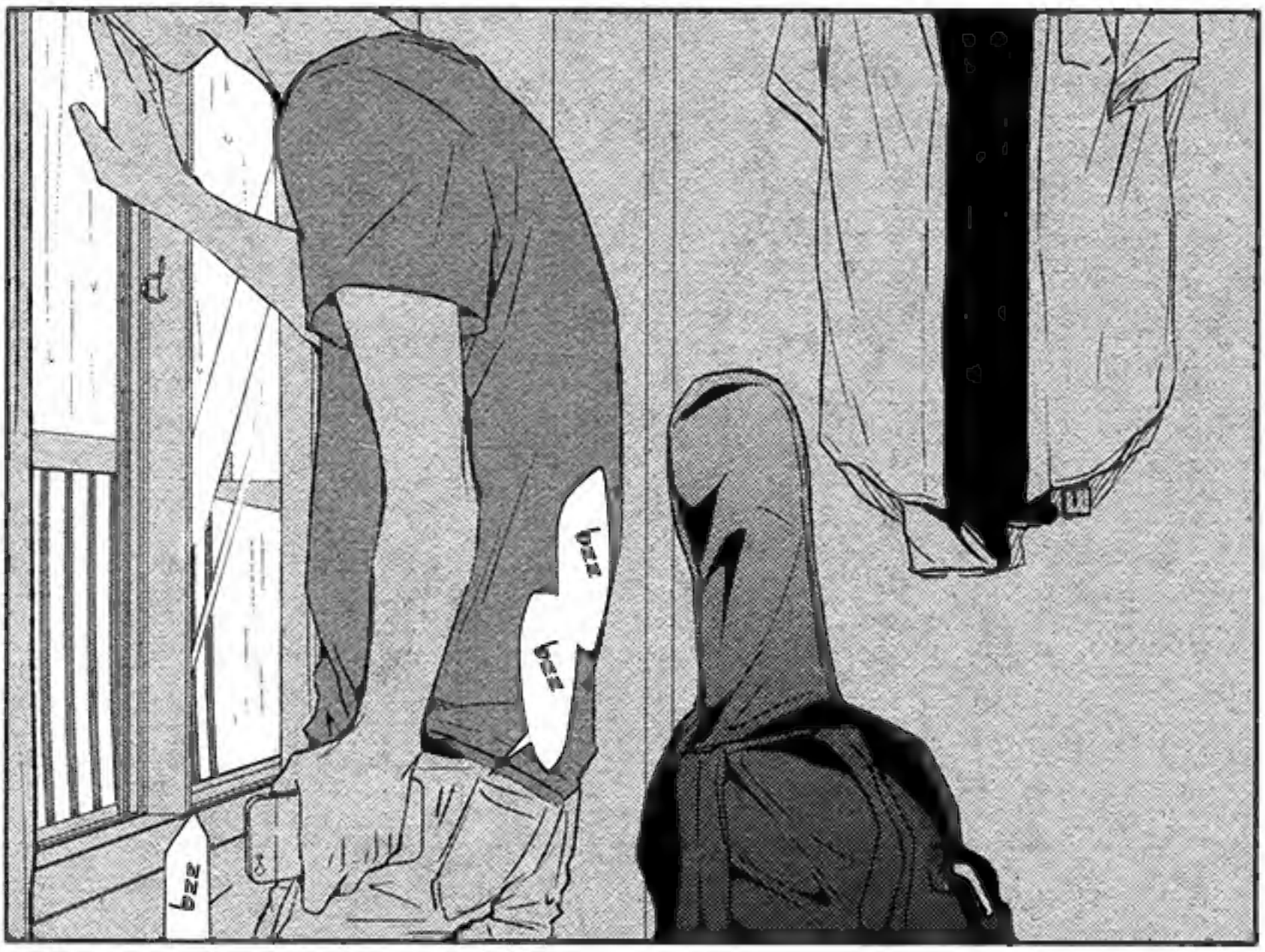
# given

Natsuki Kizu
presents


bzz
bzz
bzz

...HELLO?
SAY, MAFUYU,

WON'T YOU COME OUT AND PLAY WITH ME?

WHY DO YOU BOTHER GETTING YOURSELF INVOLVED WITH ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME FROM AFAR TILL NOW.

I ADMIT THAT...

...I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.

KASHIMA HIIRAGI DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH ANYTHING...

...BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THAT THERE'S NO POINT IN DOING SO.

THAT'S WHY...

...I'M REGRETTING IT NOW.

HE KNEW ALL ABOUT IT.

EVEN WHEN HIS CHILDHOOD FRIENDS STARTED DATING EACH OTHER,

AND YET, HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.

SAY,

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT-

YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HOW I FEEL!

realize

YEAH,
I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

KASHIMA
HIIRAGI WANTS
TO BE
FORGIVEN.

AND
BECAUSE
OF THAT
TOO,

I'M FULL
OF REGRET
NOW.

ANYONE'S FINE,
HE JUST WANTS
SOMEONE TO
FORGIVE HIM.

# code.9
given

SATOU MAFUYU,
YOSHIDA YUKI,

AND I ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS...

THEY WERE BOTH LATCHKEY CHILDREN FROM HOUSEHOLDS WITH SINGLE MOMS.

ESPECIALLY FOR YUKI AND MAFUYU.

...FROM BEFORE SHIZUSUMI MOVED HERE.

WHEN WE WERE OLD ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND US.

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WAS WITHIN OUR LITTLE WORLD.

AND EACH STARTED FILLING UP THE LACKING PARTS IN THE OTHER.

FROM THE BEGINNING, THEY BOTH SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE LACKING SOMETHING,

GRADUALLY, THEY STARTED TO GIVE OUT THE VIBE THAT THEY WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER.

TO YUKI, MAFUYU WAS NECESSARY.

AND THE SAME WENT FOR MAFUYU.

EVERYONE AROUND THEM WAS PUZZLED. THEY COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE TWO GOT ALONG SO WELL WITH EACH OTHER.

AND MAFUYU WAS QUIET, INTROVERTED AND RESERVED.

YUKI, WHO LIKED SHOWING OFF, WAS A DOMINANT AND MOODY PERSON.

...TWO OPPOSITE MAGNETIC POLES GETTING ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER.

IT FELT JUST LIKE...

I THINK BOTH OF THEIR WORLDS WERE BEING COMPLETED.

INSIDE THEIR REALITY.

YUKI, SHIZUSUMI, AND I STARTED PLAYING MUSIC.

WHEN WE ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.

AND BEFORE THAT SMALL DISTORTION APPEARED,

WORKING PART-TIME TO BUY A GUITAR.

ASIDE FROM THAT, HE ALSO IMMERSED HIMSELF IN PRACTICE AT THE STUDIO.

YUKI KEPT...

MARUYU AND YUKI ONLY FOUGHT A BIT.

THEY LOST THEIR TEMPERS..

...AND EXCHANGED HARSH WORDS...

. WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.

A VERY NORMAL QUARREL.

...YOU SEE EVERYWHERE.

IT WAS JUST THE USUAL SORT OF FIGHT...

TWO DAYS LATER, BOTH OF THEM DISAPPEARED. I KNEW IT ALL, EVEN BEFORE THAT DAY, AND YET...

I KNEW IT ALL.

YUKI DRANK A LARGE AMOUNT OF SAKE EVEN THOUGH HE COULDN'T HOLD HIS ALCOHOL. AND MAFUYU WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND HIM.

...

I'LL BE DOING... A LIVE ON SUNDAY.

NEXT WEEK.

...

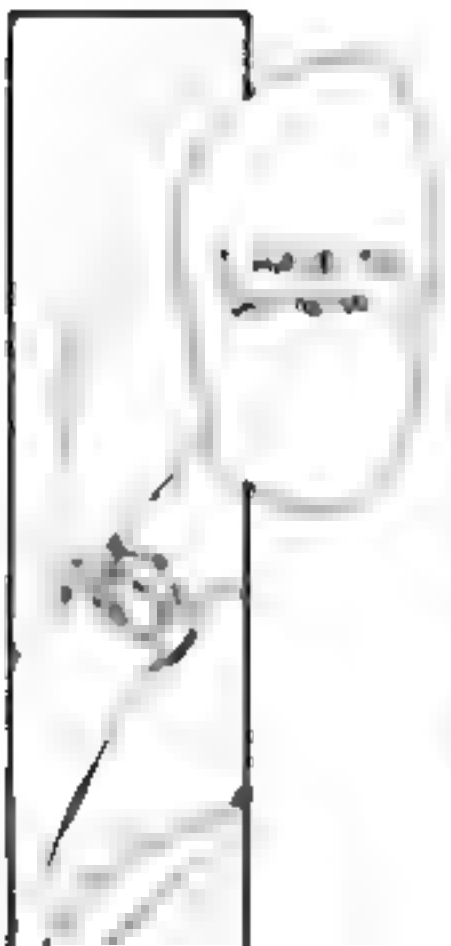
...YOU'RE SAYING THAT I CAN COME?

AND SHIZU?

YEAH, SHIZU-CHAN, TOO.

YEAH.

I DIDN'T WANT TO FACE REALITY, SO I WAS RUNNING AWAY.



SMACK
OUCH.

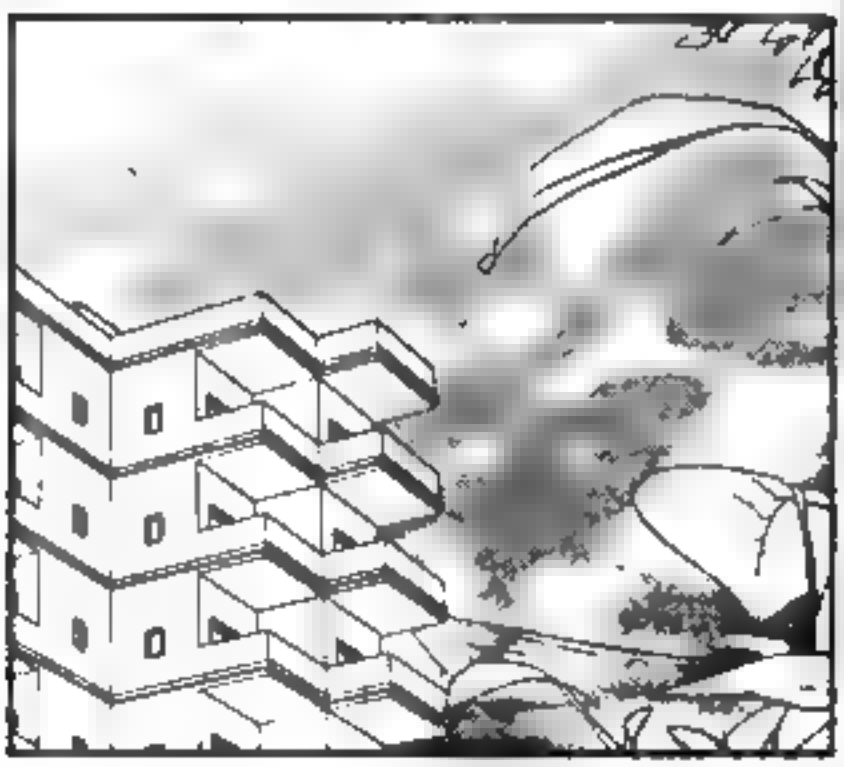
OKAY.

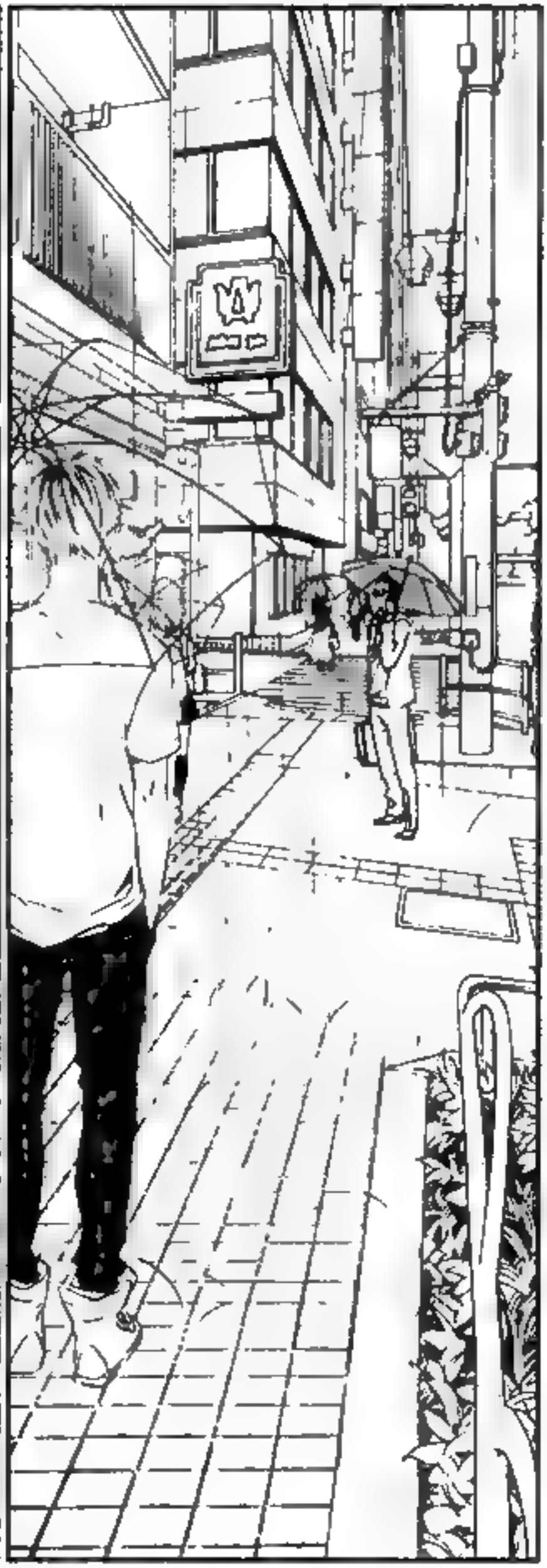
I WISH I

THANK YOU.

YOU SHOULD TEXT ME ONCE A WHILE, YOU IDIOT.

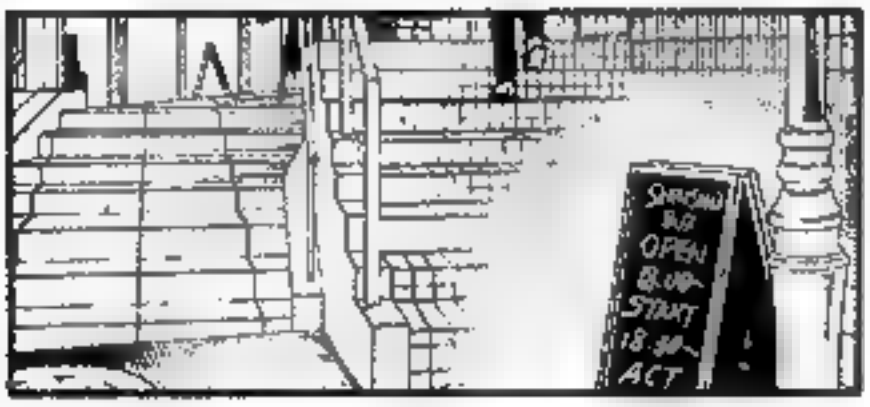
ANYONE'S FINE, HE JUST WANTS SOMEONE TO FORGIVE HIM





SUGAR

OKAY, WE'LL START INTRODUCING EVERYONE.



TODAY, THERE ARE SOME NEW GUYS, SO PLEASE SUPPORT THEM EVERYONE!

ER... WELL... THAT'S HOW IT IS!

THE DAY OF THE LIVE.

clap clap

Okay!

Please take care of us

...

twitch

Haa

They're not putting down their luggage.

Hello!

Please treat us well~

THUD

Please support us~

Okay, then, we'll be starting now

Woohoo!

Yay.

IN THE END,

chatter

MAFUYU DIDN'T EVEN SING DURING THE REHEARSAL.

Oh!

Long time no see~

chatter

One ticket for drinks, please.

THERE SHE IS!

AKIHIKO!

...

Whisper

SAY IS RITSUKA ALL RIGHT?

I DID, THOUGH I'M NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING MUCH.

YOU REALLY CAME?

AH.

AK HIKO.

AHAHA!

THIS GENIUS SHOULD JUST SHUT HIS MOUTH!

chatter

One Bloody Mary.

Right away.

Limited time

chatter

chatter

Wan in

SAY,

HA-RU...

KI!

SMACK

CHANGE

UWAH!

EVERYTHING GOING WELL WITH YOUR BAND?

UM..

IF WORSE COMES TO WORST COULD YOU PLAY ONE OR TWO SONGS BEFORE OUR TURN?

WHISPER

TAKE-CHAN?

YEAH?

YANGE

chatter

OH, WELL,

SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU GUYS HERE FOR MY PLAN,

Pat

!

IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, PREPARE TO SETTLE IT ALL, OKAY?

NOT GOOD AT ALL.

He didn't sing anything, did he?

I KNOW, RIGHT?

SO IT'S REALLY BAD, HUH?

WELL,

IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT YOU SAW DURING THE REHEARSAL.

chatter

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

WE'LL DO IT WITHOUT SINGING THIS TIME THEN.

ha ha!

chatter

SOMEWHERE INSIDE ME,

I'M FEELING RELIEVED

WHAT'S WITH THIS FEELING? IT'S THE WORST KIND OF ALL.

WE WERE ORIGINALLY AN INSTRU-MENTAL BAND ANYWAY.

NEXT TIME, YOU SAY?

CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT WE'RE NOT DONE WITH THE LYRICS, IT'S THE ONLY WAY LEFT, RIGHT?

I'M NOT OPPOSED TO IT, EITHER.

glance

NEXT...

WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE NEXT TIME.

squeeze

YOU ALWAYS SAY,

"DO IT!" OR "YOU CAN DO IT",

AND YET...

HENOYAMA-KUN, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU SAY...

...SOMETHING LIKE GIVING UP LIKE THAT.

SNAP

SAY WHAT?

CLENCH

THAT'S WHY I SAID TO JUST FACE REALITY! THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DO IT.

NN!

SNAP

Kashima Hiiragi

# KASHIMA HIIRAGI (17)

175cm

Birth 5/8 Taurus Blood Type: A

He's a bassist.
His hair is dyed.
He went to the same
high school as Yuki
and Shizusumi.

OH.
YOU HAVE MANDARIN IN YOUR DESSERT TOO, HUH?

HUH?
I'm giving this to you.
reach
THANK...
HUH? YOU WILL GIVE ME THIS MUCH?

Only a section of it.

SHIZU, ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
I FEEL LIKE HE'S ALWAYS TREATING ME SO ROUGHLY.
MAFUYU'S BEEN HARD ON ME EVER SINCE WE WERE SMALL.